

Statue of Liberty

She's over 151 feet tall [on her base she's more than 305 feet tall] and she's truly magnificent! The statue was a gift to America from the French in honor of the Centennial of American independence. It is one of the most universal symbols of political freedom and democracy. The statue's title is 'Liberty Enlightening the World' [but it is known to Americans as 'The Statue of Liberty']. Construction of the statue began in 1875 in France, and was completed in June 1884. The statue was dismantled and shipped to New York, arriving on June 19, 1885. The statue then took four months to rebuild. On October 28th, 1886, President Grover Cleveland accepted the Statue on behalf of the United States and said in part: "We will not forget that Liberty has here made her home; nor shall her chosen altar be neglected." It's history has been one of much change. The Statue was put upon a granite pedestal inside the courtyard of the star-shaped walls of Fort Wood. The United States Lighthouse Board was responsible for the operation of the Statue of Liberty until 1901.

After 1901, the care and operation of the Statue was placed under the War Department. A Presidential Proclamation declared Fort Wood National Monument on October 15th, 1924 and the monument's boundary was set at the outer edge of Fort Wood. In 1933, the care of the National Monument was transferred to the National Park Service. In 1956, the island's name was changed to Liberty Island. On May 11, 1965, Ellis Island was also transferred to the National Park Service and became part of the Statue of Liberty National Monument. In May 1982, President Ronald Reagan appointed Lee Iacocca to head up a private sector effort to restore the Statue of Liberty. In 1984, at the start of the Statue's restoration, the United Nations designated the Statue of Liberty as a World Heritage site. There are a variety of such covers. How many do you have?

